

## Humble Surrender: Hear My Cry God

It's common knowledge that "God goes against the wilful proud; God gives grace to the willing humble." - *James 4:5 (The Message)*

Then I **proclaimed a fast there**, at the river Ahava, that we might **humble ourselves** before our God, **to seek from him a safe journey** for ourselves, our children, and all our goods. For I was ashamed to ask the king for a band of soldiers and horsemen to protect us against the enemy on our way, since we had told the king, "**The hand of our God is for good on all who seek him**, and the power of his wrath is against all who forsake him." - *Ezra 8:21-22 (ESV)*

**Alongside the physical preparations for the journey, Ezra made spiritual preparation**

**This time of prayer and fasting showed:**

- A. Their humility and complete dependence on God and his protection**
- B. Their seriousness to seek God's will for their future**
- C. Their faith in God trusting he was in control**

**"When you seek God with fasting added with your prayer, you cannot seek His face in vain" - *John Wesley***

So we fasted and implored our God for this, and he listened to our entreaty. - *Ezra 8:23 (ESV)*

**God listens to humble requests**

'If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him! - *Matthew 7:11 (ESV)*

'I waited patiently for the LORD; he inclined to me and heard my cry'. *Psalms 40:1 (ESV)*

'Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.' - *Jeremiah 33:3 (ESV)*

In the twelfth day of the first month we set out from the Ahava Canal to go to Jerusalem. **The hand of our God was on us, and he protected us** from enemies and bandits along the way. So we arrived in Jerusalem. - *Ezra 8:31-32 (ESV)*

**Out of the place of prayer and fasting came humility and faith in God and they were aware that the hand of God was on them.**

**As we journey through life, we are called to draw near to God, to call upon the Lord, to humbly seek him and to pray and fast.**

You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. - *Jeremiah 29:13 (ESV)*

**Ezra and the people believed that God was with them, and he answered their prayers**

### **Humble Surrender Prayer Evenings – 7pm to 8.30pm**

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January – More of God

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January – MKCC Vision/Mission/Leadership/Future

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January – Personal challenges/Needs

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January – Next Gen/Children/Youth